FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

23 APRIL 1984

Libya

The People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, in a statement broadcast by Tripoli television on 22 April, said it had received "with strong astonishment and displeasure" the British Government's decision to sever relations unilaterally. Affirming that Britain's decision to "escalate" the situation came despite Libyan efforts to resolve the crisis peacefully in accordance with international norms, the committee said the issue of relations with Britain will be submitted to the basic people's congresses, which will decide on Libya's response. While reaffirming Libya's claim that the British authorities were responsible for the 17 April incident in St James Square and have arrested and tortured Libyan students in the United Kingdom, the statement promised that British citizens currently in Libya will continue to receive "all security and care."

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi proposed a Libyan commission of inquiry to investigate the shooting outside the People's Bureau during a 21 April press conference reported by Tripoli radio. He also declared that the most logical solution to the problem would be for Libya to send an investigative committee to the People's Bureau and to submit anyone who deserves to be prosecuted to a trial in Libya attended by British observers. Denying any involvement in the 20 April bomb explosion at Heathrow Airport, Al-Qadhdhafi warned that he "cannot undertake to control the masses in any reaction they may carry out" in response to further British moves against the People's Bureau and Libyans in Britain.

In other coverage of the crisis with Britain, Tripoli television broadcast an interview with a British "journalist" who cited evidence that the British policewoman was shot by one of the masked anti-Al-Qadhdhafi demonstrators rather than by fire from the People's Bureau. An *AZ-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR* editorial broadcast by Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio warned that Libya's people's committees will ally with and sponsor "the secret IRA" so that Libya can counter British pressure by helping IRA members "do whatever they wish" in Britain.

Lebanon

Disengagement of Forces — Beirut was calm over the weekend as the Security Arrangements Committee supervised the deployment of cease-fire observers and Internal Security Forces along the contact lines in and around the capital in accordance with the plan for the disengagement of hostile forces, Beirut radio reported. "Problems" which caused a "limited security setback" on 22 April were resolved by the committee, and the deployment of security forces in the buffer zones will be completed on 23 April, according to a committee source cited by the radio.

Israeli-Syrian Military Situation — There is no basis for reports about an Israeli military buildup in the Al-Biqa' valley. Israel has no interest in making the situation along the lines with Syria more serious, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir declared in a 21 April interview with Jerusalem radio. Jerusalem television said there has been "no tangible reinforcement" of Syrian troops in the Al-Biqa' that would indicate "aggressive intentions" on their part. On the other hand, both Beirut radio and Kuwait's *AS-SIYASAH* cited reports that both sides have continued to reinforce their positions in the valley.

Meanwhile, another IDF soldier was wounded when his patrol was ambushed north of the Litani River on 20 April, according to Jerusalem radio. In Sidon the Israelis handed over their command headquarters at Government House to the southern army of Lebanon and no longer maintain a permanent position in the city, though they continue to control its access roads, Beirut radio reported.

Political Developments — After a 22 April meeting in Damascus with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) leader Walid Junblatt, and Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri, former Prime Minister Rashid Karami said that political reform rather than the formation of a new government was the chief subject of discussion, Beirut radio reported. AFP and Radio Monte Carlo had earlier cited reports that Karami will head the expected national unity government, in which both Junblatt and Birri will be assigned portfolios. Meanwhile, President Amin al-Jumayyil contacted various Lebanese leaders to implement the general principles formulated in his recent talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Beirut radio noted. The principles include measures to end the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon, formation of a national unity government, and implementation of wide-ranging reforms. Official Lebanese sources cited by the radio confirmed that the two presidents agreed on the "common denominators" for a national unity government and said that the summit talks defined "broad lines" for building a new Lebanon with strong Syrian support.

Although Phalange Party leader Pierre al-Jumayyil described the results of the Lebanese-Syrian summit as "positive," the Lebanese Forces official spokesman said his organization will not participate in any new government that serves as a "tool" for Syria, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported. Former President Camille Sham'un declared his "absolute opposition" to the appointment of Karami as prime minister and denounced Walid Junblatt's "inflammatory" statements, according to the Voice of Lebanon and Radio Free Lebanon. The criticism of Junblatt followed the latter's speech at a PSP fighter's funeral in the Ash-Shuf, broadcast by the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio, in which he warned that the battle will not end through a "new ministerial ploy" and affirmed his unwillingness to make peace with or recognize the Phalangists.

A Damascus radio commentary on the outcome of the Al-Asad-Al-Jumayyil talks stressed the need for the rapid formation of a national unity government and a *TISHRIN* editorial reviewed by the radio warned Lebanon that it must seize what may be its "last opportunity" to resolve its internal crisis. Syria "will not stand idly by" if the current bad situation continues in Lebanon, the paper added.

Egyptian-Israeli Relations

Egypt has temporarily recalled its consul from Elat to Cairo in response to the salvage of a sunken Israeli yacht from Egyptian territorial waters, ITIM reported. The Tel Aviv paper *HADASHOT said the consul left for Cairo despite an official Israeli* apology over the incident. Meanwhile, Egypt announced its decision to sever diplomatic relations with El Salvador and Costa Rica because the two Central American countries moved their embassies to Jerusalem, Cairo radio reported. The decision stems from Egypt's "firm and principled" stand over the status of Jerusalem and is in line with the recommendations of the Jerusalem Committee, the radio added.

In another development affecting Egyptian-Israeli relations, Kuwait's *AL-QABAS* spoke of a "secret honeymoon" between Egypt and Syria and said Egypt has assured Syria that it will "not stand idly by" if the latter is subjected to an Israeli attack. Egypt informed the United States that the Egyptian-Israeli treaty will be jeopardized if Israel attacks Syria, according to the newspaper's sources, and it has been "confirmed" that Egyptian Defense Minister 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah recently visited Damascus. Reacting to the *AL-QABAS* story, Defense Minister Moshe Arens said he does not rule out the possibility that Egypt might join the fighting if an Israeli-Syrian war breaks out, Jerusalem radio reported. He also stated that Israel will demand an explanation if the report that Abu Ghazalah secretly visited Syria proves to be true. In response to Arens, an official Egyptian source cited by MENA said that if Egypt wanted to send its defense minister anywhere, it would do so openly because it fears nobody or anything when it wants to carry out such a mission.

Jerusalem Committee

The Jerusalem Committee has authorized its chairman, Moroccan King Hassan II, to head a delegation to the United States to "explain the facts" about Jerusalem to U.S. officials, the ICO secretary general announced at the end of the committee's emergency session in Fes in a speech broadcast by Rabat radio. He noted that the committee also urged ICO member states to break off relations with Costa Rica and El Salvador in implementation of ICO resolutions dealing with states that move their embassies to Jerusalem or otherwise recognize Israel's annexation of the city.

PLO Affairs

Algiers Conference — Representatives of Palestinian factions ended their meeting in Algiers on 22 April, Algiers radio reported. According to "informed sources," the conferees agreed to hold a further "extended" meeting in Algiers, possibly on 10 May, the radio added. Fatah deputy military commander Khalil al-Wazir led the Fatah delegation while the DFLP and PFLP deputy leaders headed their respective delegations.

Syrian Position — Syria has invited the Fatah Central Committee to hold a dialogue on all issues concerning the Palestinian revolution, the Kuwaiti newspaper *AL-QABAS* reported citing a "high-level Palestinian official."

Bus Hijacker Deaths — The PFLP has asked the International Committee of the Red Cross to investigate what it called the "murder by Israeli authorities" of two of the four persons involved in the recent hijacking of an Israeli bus, AFP reported on 21 April, citing a PFLP statement. The PFLP may feel obliged to accord the same treatment to captured Israeli soldiers, the statement added.

Meanwhile, reports that one of the dead terrorists was taken from the bus alive and was seen and even photographed by newsmen have "embarrassed" senior Israeli Government officials, the Israeli newspaper *'Al HAMISHMAR* reported.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz held talks with French External Affairs Minister Claude Cheysson in Antibes on 21 April during which he warned that Iran was planning a new offensive and stated that Iraq would continue to attack foreign ships carrying Iranian oil in the Gulf, AFP reported.

Meanwhile, the Iraqi Air Force and air defense commander, in an interview with INA, disclosed that the Air Force will destroy "selected Iranian targets of vital importance" at the appropriate time in order to force the Iranian regime to retreat. "A great development" will occur on the battlefield, he predicted.

In a separate development, Iranian forces in the Majnun area shot down an Iraqi reconnaissance plane on 19 April, according to a military communique broadcast by Tehran radio over the weekend.

Jordan

Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat, in an Amman television interview on internal issues, revealed that "hirelings" of Palestinian dissident Sabri al-Banna, alias Abu Nidal, were recently arrested and interrogated in connection with several "incidents" in Jordan and will be referred to the appropriate court. Asked about the government's declared intention to combat corruption, 'Ubaydat dismissed "rumors" linking "some former officials" with corrupt activities but disclosed that the government is taking measures to rid the Civil Service of corrupt and unsatisfactory employees and is drafting legislation to eliminate "economic crimes."

Afghanistan

Ahmad Shah Masud's forces have repulsed the latest Soviet attempt to recapture the Panjsher valley, killing around 100 Soviet and DRA troops in the fighting, AFP reported citing information received in Islamabad from Masud.

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French Contact With Rebel Leader Protested

LD231645 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 23 Apr 84

[Text] According to reports from the international mass media, Burhanuddin Rabbani, leader of the so-called Jami'at-e Eslami Afghanistan counterrevolutionary band, recently went to Paris and was given the opportunity to use some French press organs for false statements and claims against the DRA. In addition, the secretary general of the French Foreign Ministry, Mr Gutmann, received Rabbani at the ministry.

In this connection, this morning at 1000, the French charge d'affaires in Kabul was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and a protest note was handed to him by the deputy director of the fifth regional political department.

The note states that welcoming a leader of the opposition forces of a government with which France has diplomatic relations is an open violation of international norms. It indicates that the French authorities have joined the enemies of the DRA and the people of Afghanistan.

The note clearly states that the path which France has chosen through Afghan counterrevolutionary leaders, by establishing links with reactionary forces and their servants, is in contravention of French national interests and people.

The note states that choosing this path damages Afghan-French relations and causes the indignation of the people of afghanistan.

The letter, while strongly protesting this kind of unfriendly activities by the Republic of France, which are in complete variance to the principles of normal diplomatic relations, demands immediate action toward the cessation of contacts between the French authorities and those elements and groups who are hostile to the people of Afghanistan. It also demands that French soil not be used by the bandits to carry out hostile activities against the DRA.

Bomb Planted Outside Cinema Kills Three

LD202107 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1545 GMT 20 Apr 84

[Text] The counterrevolutionaries, by perpetrating another shameful crime, today caused the martyrdom and injury of a number of our innocent compatriots, once again exposing their evil faces in hostility and animal rancor against our people.

Quoting a security force spokesman, BIA reports that as a result of a bomb planted by the counterrevolutionaries in the courtyard outside Cinema Ariana, near local restaurants, while our compatriots were watching a film on their day off — Friday — three of our innocent compatriots were martyred and a number of others received slight injuries.

The city toilers, after becoming aware of this dirty crime, expressed their revulsion at the barbarous counterrevolutionaries who further embark on such dirty and criminal methods in the last days of their lives and vigoriously condemned it.

Rebel Commander Says Soviets Rebuffed in Panjsher

BK211410 Hong Kong AFP in English 1355 GMT 21 Apr 84

[By Sami Zubeiri]

[Text] Islamabad, April 21 (AFP) — Afghan resistance fighters in the Panjsher Valley, in northern Afghanistan, have rebuffed the latest Soviet attempt to retake the strategic valley, according to reports from rebel commander Ahmad Shah Masud.

A spokesman for Mr Masud's Jamiat-I-Islami group of Mujahedeen said, quoting a letter from Mr Masud, that about 100 Soviet and Afghan troops had been killed in the fighting, and a number of armoured vehicles destroyed. He said that about 10,000 rebels had massed in the valley and that all civilians had been evacuated in anticipation of a major Soviet offensive, which Mr Masud said was imminent. Six previous Soviet attempts to seize control of the vally have failed.

Last weekend's attack was blunted when Mujahedeen blew up several bridges on major highways including Matak Bridge on the Salang Highway, thus denying access to the valley's mouth at Golbahar, and also paralysing communications between Kabul and Herat on the Soviet border. Soviet and Afghan forces despatched several military caravans towards the valley on Sunday. Three tanks were destroyed near Golbahar.

A second convoy sent from the northern Salang Highway to Bagram the same day was blocked by rebels who knocked out over a dozen tanks, the spokesman said. The guerrillas, equipped with Dashaka cannons, also reportedly shot down a Soviet jet.

The attacking troops despatched two more convoys simultaneously towards the valley, but one became stranded midway on the highway at Sarai Khwaja. The guerrillas, using mines and rockets, destroyed seven tanks and armoured vehicles, forcing the Soviet-Afghan forces to retreat.

Mr Masud, who has reportedly refused to extend the unwritten truce with the Soviets which expired in March, was said to have been well-prepared for the Soviet onslaught.

Resistance sources believe the destruction of Matak Bridge was a major blow to the regime as Kabul residents now face more fuel shortages because of the disruption of communications.

Indian Forces Open Fire at Border, Kill 1 Soldier

BK210832 Dhaka BSS in English 0759 GMT 21 Apr 84

[Text] Dhaka, April 21 BSS — Indian Security Forces (BSF) opened fire on Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) in the northern Bhurungamari border area Friday evening killing one jawan [soldier] and injuring another.

The exchange of fire erupted when Indian authorities forcibly tried to erect barbed were fence on the zero line of the common border between the two countries which Bangladesh opposed on the grounds that it was in violation to the border guidelines.

A spokesman of the Foreign Office said that Indian workers supported by BSF troops forcibly tried to erect fencing along the zero line when Bangladesh Rifles protested.

The spokesman said that Bangladesh side has all along been showing utmost restraint in the face of continuous provocations from the BSF which opened fire first. The BDR had to take recourse to fire in self defence, he said.

Strong Protest Lodged

BK211746 Dhaka Overseas Service in Bengali 1700 GMT 21 Apr 84

[Text] During the firing by the Indian Border Security Forces [BSF] without any provocation at the Bhurungamari area in Kurigram District yesterday evening, one soldier of the Bangladesh Rifles [BDR] was killed and another seriously injured. Stating this in Dhaka today, a Foreign Office spokesman said the Indian high commissioner in Bangladesh was summoned to the Foreign Office this morning and a strong protest was lodged over this unwarranted and unprovoked firing. The Foreign Office was critical of the incident.

The Foreign Office urged the Indian authorities to keep the situation under control and to take urgent necessary steps for lessening tension because this tension is a threat to peace and security in the region.

The spokesman pointed out that earlier, on Thursday, the Indian high commissioner was summoned to the Foreign Office and was told that because of India's unilateral activities at the zero line of the border, tension is mounting in this region. In order to prevent further deterioration of the situation, the high commissioner was requested to communicate to the Indian authorities the urgent need to restrain the BSF from such provocative activities.

The spokesman stated with regret that despite their efforts, the unhappy event took place yesterday evening. He hoped that for the interest of good neighborly and friendly relations, the Indian Government will give assurances that such unfortunate events resulting from the unilateral activities of India at the zero line of the border and the provocation of the BSF will not be repeated.

The spokesman said that the BDR personnel have so far displayed firm restraint, but they were forced to fire in self-defense.

Reportage on President's Talks With Opposition

Concession on Elections

BK201720 Hong Kong AFP in English 1653 GMT 20 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Dhaka, April 20 (AFP) — Bangladesh military ruler Hussain Mohammed Ershad today told the opposition seven-party alliance that he would concede to their demands for holding the parliamentary polls before the presidential election. But the military ruler at the same time asked the opposition to agree to a definite date for the election to be held after the parliamentary polls.

Bangladesh's two major opposition alliances — the Awami League led 15-party and the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) led seven-party combines — have been consistantly demanding the holding of parliamentary polls before the presidential election, both of which are scheduled to be held on May 27.

Agreement on Lifting Martial Law

BK211005 Dhaka Overseas Service in Bengali 0900 GMT 21 Apr 84

[Text] Under the current negotiations between the government and political party leaders on important national issues, the leaders of the 15-party alliance today met in Banga Bhavan for a third round of talks with President Ershad and his aides. The 33-member delegation of the alliance was led by the Awami League's Sheikh Hasina Wajed. The president was assisted by the two deputy chief martial law administrators and 13 others, including the prime minister.

Talking to waiting newsmen at the end of a long discussion, the president's special assistant, A.R. Yusuf, said that detailed discussions took place between the two sides in a very cordial atmosphere and the talks turned out to be very constructive and fruitful.

On the basis of the demands of the alliance, agreement has been reached that martial law will be lifted. It was also announced that procedures for this will be drawn up.

It was reiterated in principle that elections for a sovereign parliament will be held first. A joint committee will be set up with representatives from both sides for the purpose of drawing the guidelines for lifting martial law and determining the sovereignty of the parliament. The names of the members of the joint committee will be announced soon. Both sides unanimously agreed that the talks will continue.

Disagreement on Elections Dates

BK221603 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Apr 84

[Text] In Bangladesh, the 15-party alliance led by Sheikh Hasina Wajed is reported to have rejected General Ershad's suggestion

to set the definite date for the presidential election (?but) holding the parliamentary poll first. Stating this, a spokesman of the alliance said that during its third round of talks with the military rulers in Dhaka this morning [as heard], the alliance disagreed with General Ershad's proposal for simultaneous announcement of two separate dates for both parliamentary and presidential polls.

The spokesman said that the alliance told President Ershad that after bringing necessary amendments to the Constitution and deciding on the form of government, the elected parliament will take a decision for the presidential election. The alliance did not want any constitutional amendments from the military president but demanded a proclamation from him for lifting the martial law and taking steps to ensure a free and fair parliamentary election.

Ershad Receives Egyptian Envoy, Mubarak Message
BK221058 Dhaka BSS in English 0709 GMT 22 Apr 84

[Text] Dhaka, Apr 22 (BSS) — The special envoy of the Egyptian president today handed over a message from President Husni Mubarak to President H.M. Ershad here at the Presidential Palace.

Ambassador 'Abd ar-Ra'uf ar-Raydi, head of the International Organization Division of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, arrived here Friday with the message. Contents of the message were not disclosed, but it understood to have contained Egypt's peace plan to end Gulf war between Iran and Iraq.

Bangladesh is a member of the seven-member committee to end the war. The envoy leaves here tomorrow.

Spokesman Says Bangladesh Opens Fire at Border

BK211648 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Apr 84

[Text] The Bangladesh Rifles [BDR] yesterday opened fire on Indian personnel engaged in erecting a fence on the Assam border. The firing continued for about 10 minutes. The Border Security Forces were finally obliged to return the fire in self defense. There were no casualties on the Indian side.

An official spokesman said in New Delhi that the incident occurred at (Ramraikuti) in Dubri where construction of a fence by the Central Public Works Department [CPWD] was going on. The Bangladesh Rifles tried to prevent the CPWD personnel from doing their work on Thursday also. They tried to fill in the pits dug by Indian workers and to uproot the pillars erected on Indian territory. The Bangladesh Rifles trespassed into territory despite the Indian personnel repeatedly urging them not to disturb the fencing work. Ultimately, the Bangladesh Rifles opened fire at about 1830 yesterday.

The spokesman said that the matter has been taken up with the Bangladesh authorities. India's decision to erect the fence on the border has been explained to the Bangladesh Government on several occasions at various levels.

The spokesman made it clear that the fence is being erected on our side of the border. India considers it highly objectionable that Bangladesh should interfere in this work and also use force to prevent it. It was to avoid any such situation and to defuse tension that India had requested the Bangladesh Government about a week ago to withdraw its Armed Forces from the area.

Reports from Dhaka said one BDR personnel was injured in the exchange of fire.

Bangladesh Said To Claim Villages in Border Zone

BK220905 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 22 Apr 84

[Text] The West Bengal Government has urged the center to stop the joint survey being carried out on the Indo-Bangladesh border in Jalpaiguri District. This follows the Bangladesh Government's claim on two Indian villages, which has created tension. The state agriculture minister, Mr Kamal Guha, who visited the villages, told newsmen in Calcutta that the Bangladesh Government has claimed Khudipara and Tinpara under Nagar Berubari Panchayat in Jalpaiguri as part of its territory. He alleged that the state government was unaware of the survey until the claim was made by Bangladesh.

Memorandum Charges Sri Lanka Torturing Tamils

BK221548 Hong Kong AFP in English 1441 GMT 22 Apr 84

[Text] New Delhi, April 22 (AFP) — Sri Lankan police are torturing Tamil youths held in jails while hundreds more are detained without trial in inhuman conditions, a memorandum submitted to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights charges. The memorandum was released today in Madras, capital of southern India's Tamil Nadu state, by Tamil United Liberation Front Secretary General Appapillai Amirthalingam, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported. It said that Tamils were suffering "degrading and cruel torture" in police stations and prisons in northern and eastern Sri Lanka. Several detainees had died due to the torture, the memorandum said. It accused the Sri Lankan Government of perpetrating violence on the Tamils by claiming it was combating terrorism and appealed to the UN commission to hold an inquiry.

The Tamils, who form the minority in Sri Lanka, are waging an often violent campaign for a separate state in the island republic.

The memorandum charged that Sri Lanka's Government had gone back on its promises of greater devolution of power and regional autonomy to the Tamils.

PTI quoted the memorandum as saying that several Tamils in areas dominated by the Sinhala majority had become victims of extortion and threats. Many were fleeing to India, it added. It called on the UN commission to review its earlier decision not to intervene in Sri Lanka's ethnic problems.

The government was making no serious effort to break the deadlock in the all-party conference aimed at finding a settlement to the issue, the memorandum said.

Reportage on Situation in Punjab 21-23 April

'Secret Efforts' Noted

BK210728 Hong Kong AFP in English 0705 GMT 21 Apr 84

[By Govindan Unny]

[Excerpts] New Delhi, April 21 (AFP) — The federal government is making secret efforts to reach an "understanding" with Sikh political leaders in Punjab, where Sikh extremists are pushing a violent campaign for autonomy, the daily *INDIAN EXPRESS* reported today. Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was also likely to restore popular government in the northern state soon to replace the governor's rule imposed seven months ago, the *EXPRESS* said.

The prime minister had an hour-long discussion on the Punjab problem with President Giani Zail Singh yesterday evening. They also discussed the issue in the morning when they saw off the Amir of Qatar at Delhi airport after his state visit, the *EXPRESS* said.

It said Mrs. Gandhi had instituted secret contacts with the Sikh politial party, the Akali Dal, mainly with the moderate wing, to seek a settlement in the Punjab. Quoting "important sources," the paper said that her son, Rajiv Gandhi, who is secretary general of the ruling Congress Party, had contacted Akali Dal President Sant Harchand Singh Longowal, chief of the Sikh Temple Administration Committee G.S. Tohra, and former State Chief Minister Prakash Singh Badal. It gave no other details.

Mr. Tohra and Mr. Badal are now in jail after they burned pages of the Indian Constitution in a protest in February.

Akali Dal Meeting Called

BK211312 Hong Kong AFP in English 1203 GMT 21 Apr 84

[Excerpt] New Delhi, April 21 (AFP) — Sikh Akali Dal party chief Sant Harchand Singh Longowal has summoned an emergency meeting of top Akali leaders for April 27 to review the 20-month-old campaign for more political and religious freedom for Sikhs, Indian news agency reports said today.

Quoting Akali Dal sources, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA, however, said that the main purpose of the meeting was to discuss the crisis arising out of differences between the moderate wing of the party, led by Mr. Longowal, and the militant group headed by Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale. At the same time, the federal government is making secret efforts to reach an "understanding" with Sikh political leaders in Punjab, the daily *INDIAN EXPRESS* reported today. Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was also likely to restore popular government in the northern state soon to replace the governor's rule imposed seven months ago, the *EXPRESS* said.

The Sikh meeting would be attended by Akali members of parliament, state assembly deputies, members of the Sikh Temple Administration Committee and youth wing activists from all over Punjab, PTI said in a dispatch from the Golden Temple, city of Amritsar. The agenda would also include recommendations of the five-member committee constituted by Mr. Longowal to defuse the situation inside the Golden Temple following the assassination of Surinder Singh Sodhi, a close aide of Mr. Bhindranwale on April 14. Three of Mr. Sodhi's alleged killers have already been brutally murdered by suspected extremist supporters of Mr. Bhindranwale. But tension has mounted within the temple complex following the charge by the Bhindranwale faction that the Akali Dal secretary and a close associate of Mr. Longowal, Gurcharan Singh, was also involved in Mr. Sodhi's murder.

The five-member committee appointed by Mr. Longowal has recommended in an interim report an "overhaul" of the Akali Dal office and screening of persons staying in the complex, PTI said.

In another dispatch from Amritsar, PTI said three unidentified assailants made an abortive attempt on the life of a Nirankari (breakaway Sikh sect) leader of Mushaal village, 25 kilometers (15 miles) from the city, last night. The assailants fired several shots at the vehicle in which the Nirankari, Mann Singh, was travelling but he escaped unhurt. Mr. Singh's armed guard fired back but the assailants escaped, the agency said. The agency also said that no other incident had been reported in the past 24 hours from other parts of Punjab.

Longowal: No Secret Talks

BK230726 Hong Kong AFP in English 0712 GMT 23 Apr 84

[By Dilip Ganguly]

[Excerpt] Amritsar, India, April 23 (AFP) — President of the Sikh political party, the Akali Dal, today denied categorically that he was involved in a secret negotiations with Prime Minister Indira Gandhi to solve the Punjab issue. Harchand Singh Longowal told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE: "Our campaign will go on and there is no truth in the report that I am involved in secret negotiations."

Newspapers in New Delhi have been carrying reports that Mrs. Gandhi was involved in secret negotiations with the Sikh leader. The issue reached its climax today when the *INDIAN EXPRESS* newspaper reported from Chandigarh, joint capital of Punjab and Hindu-dominated Haryana State, in a front page story that Mr. Longowal and Mrs. Gandhi had a long talk by telephone.

"There is no truth in the report and I did not have talks with Mrs. Gandhi," Mr Longowal, who leads the moderate section of the party said.

The report in the newspaper had meanwhile widened the gulf between Mr Longowal and Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, who leads the militant faction of Sikhs.

Rachpal Singh, press secretary to Mr. Bhindranwale, said his leader was meeting with his supporters to discuss the present situation.

"A well-informed Sikh source said that the report had further pushed Mr. Longowal on the defensive as it was being used by the militants to propagate that Mr. Longowal was keen on coming to a settlement with the Indian Government."

The division and sharp differences between the two factions were evident here with the groups charging each other of not keeping in mind the supreme interest of the Akali Dal. Sant Bhindranwale's faction has accused the moderates of towing a soft line, whereas the moderates have said that the recent increased militancy would harm the Sikh interest in the long run.

Meanwhile, this city of 500,000 people appeared tense with paramilitary troops aided by Punjab police guarding important intersections of the roads and government installations. Except for one incident of police firing late last night near the Nirankari, a breakway Sikh sect head office, there were no reports of violence in this city, police spokesman said. Police shot at a group of four people, suspected to be Sikhs, after they had allegedly opened fire on the office in down town Amritsar.

Elsewhere in the state yesterday, three people were killed and several were wounded in the continuing violence. Among those to die was a Hindu priest, who police said was gunned down by Sikhs on a motorcycle.

Curfew Extended for *Chandigarh*

BK220859 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 22 Apr 84

[Text] In Chandigarh, the curfew has been extended until tomorrow morning. It will be relaxed from 2300 to 0900 this evening.

Except for a case of looting, no untoward incident has been reported from Punjab and Chandigarh since yesterday. Some passengers of a bus were looted; a group of armed assailants near Mukerian on the Pathankot road last night. The bus was on its way from Amritsar to Jullundur. [illegible] later escaped.

Meanwhile, some people have been arrested in Chandigarh for defiance of curfew orders, riding. About [illegible] into custody until last evening for [illegible]

To Be Lifted

BK221253 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 22 Apr 84

[Text] In Chandigarh, with the improvement in the situation, the day curfew is being lifted tomorrow morning. According to an official spokesman, the night curfew from 1930 to 0600 will however continue till the 26th of this month. Prohibitory orders of carrying of arms, pillion riding, and assembly of more than five persons will continue. The union territory has ordered the closure of all educational insitutions, including schools and colleges and technical institutions, for tomorrow also.

In Punjab, the curfew has been lifted from Bagh Purana in Faridpur District. However, indefinite day and night curfew in Moga will continue. Night curfew in Patiala will also continue as a precautionary measure till the 29th of this month.

Arrests Total 320

BK221606 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Apr 84

[Text] A sarpanch [village head] of a village near Phagwara was killed and three other persons, including the sarpanch of (Bais), were injured when some unidentified miscreants fired at them this afternoon. The miscreants, who came on a scooter, escaped after the incident. According to an official spokesman in Chandigarh, the victim was also a caretaker of a religious place.

The spokesman told newsmen that a dead body was handed over to the Amritsar police today by the manager of the Guru Ramdash Sarai [Lodge] in the Golden Temple complex. According to the first information report lodged with the police, he was beaten to death by the people after having been caught pickpocketing in the temple complex.

Meanwhile, some more activists of the banned All-India Sikh Students Federation have been arrested. The spokesman said the total number of arrests has so far risen to 320.

Committee Set Up

BK230307 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 Apr 84

[Text] The Shromani Gurdwara [Sikh Temple] Management Committee has appointed a committee to screen those staying in the Golden Temple complex in Amritsar. The new committee will also make a routine check on them besides being responsible for allotment of rooms in the complex. The 11-member panel was set up yesterday on the recommendation of a committee by the Akali Dal president to defuse the explosive situation in the [illegible].

Meanwhile, the Akali Dal, Longowal group, has called for the release of all senior leaders of the party to help resume tripartite [illegible] resolving the Punjab tangle. The call was given in a statement in New Delhi by the press secretary of the party, Bakshi Jagdev Singh. The leaders of the party were arrested for showing disrespect to the Constitution.

In Chandigarh, the day curfew imposed since Friday was lifted this morning. An official spokesman said in Chandigarh this has been done in view of the improvement of the situation. He said the night curfew from 1930 to 0600 will, however, continue as a precautionary measure. All educational institutions will remain closed for today also. No untoward incident has been reported from any part of the union territory during the last 3 days. Police are, however, continuing to arrest the culprits connected with the incidents of violence and arson last Wednesday and Thursday. An Air Force officer was murdered last night by some unidentified assailants in the village Pritnagar in Amritsar district. The assailands while escaping took away his licensed gun and some valuables. Meanwhile, the curfew in Mogda town of Faridkot District has been further extended till this evening as a precautionary measure.

Gandhi Visits Chandigarh

BK230758 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 23 Apr 84

[Text] The prime minister has called for a nationwide effort to combat organized terrorism. Talking to newsmen in Mandi today, Mrs Gandhi said the people should view this task above party and such other considerations. She said the foremost task is to restore normalcy in Punjab.

Asked what prevented the Akali leader from coming to the negotiation table for a settlement of the Punjab problem, Mrs Gandhi said that it had become a bigger issue and had gone out of control of the Akalis. About the situation in the Golden Temple complex, she said it is worrying us. Basically this should be handled by the Akalis themselves.

Later, addressing a public meeting at Mandi, Mrs Gandhi said most of the demands of the Akalis have already been conceded, but their implementation is being hindered by the Akalis themselves.

Earlier, Mrs Gandhi was given a warm welcome when she arrived at Chandigarh for a short stopover this morning. Mrs Gandhi

was on her way from Delhi to Himachal Pradesh. Those who received her at the airport included the governor of Punjab, Mr B.D. Pandey; the governor of Haryana, Mr G.D. Tapase; the Haryana chief minister, Mr Bhajan Lal, and other senior officials. Mrs Gandhi held discussions with the Punjab governor at the airport and reviewed the law and order situation in the state. Mrs Gandhi also met senior local Congress-I leaders.

Gandhi Accuses Foreign Powers

BK230932 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 23 Apr 84

[Excerpts] The prime minister has called for a nationwide effort to combat organized terrorism. Talking to newsmen in Mandi in Himachal Pradesh today, Mrs Gandhi said the people should view this task above party and other considerations.

Later, addressing a public meeting, Mrs Gandhi said that most of the demands of the Akalis have already been conceded but their implementation is being hindered by the Akalis themselves. She said the Sarkaria Commission will examine the center-state relations. The interstate (?talks) which will be settled in consultation with the neighboring states. [sentence as heard] She described as baseless the charge that the Punjab tangle is not being solved for political reasons.

The prime minister said the Akali leaders have lost control of the situation in Punjab. Accusing the hands of foreign powers in the Punjab affairs, Mrs Gandhi said this was an attempt to destablize the country. She said some misguided people living abroad are under the delusion that by acting at the behest of some foreign powers they can achieve something. Mrs Gandhi said these people should take lessons from history that these foreign powers have always used such overt [as heard] methods to create disturbances in other countries.

Lok Sabha Discusses Amending National Security Act

BK230956 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 23 Apr 84

[Text] A bill to amend the National Security Act and to replace a presidential ordinance was introduced in the Lok Sabha today amidst stiff opposition. Opposition members said the provisions of the bill, particularly relating to preventive detention, are against the fundamental and democratic rights of the people. They feared that the enormous powers acquired by the government through the ordinance might be used against their political opponents and even innocent people. They were also opposed to the issue of ordinances.

The minister for state for home, Mrs Ram Dulari Sinha, said that the bill seeks to enable the government to deal with the terrorist and extremist elements in the disturbed areas of Punjab and Chandigarh. She pointed out that much concern has been expressed to the house on several occasions on the situation in Punjab.

Venkataraman Comments on Pakistan's Air Violation

BK210915 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 21 Apr 84

[Text] The defense minister assured the Lok Sabha today that constant vigil is being kept to prevent violation of Indian airspace. Mr Venkataraman was making a statement on the forced landing of a Pakistani small aircraft at Mukerian in Hoshiarpur district of Punjab on Wednesday. He told the house that it is because of the alertness of our security forces that the violation was detected and search operations taken up immediately. He said the Pakistan Government has conveyed its regret to India over the incident. Mr Venkataraman said the Home Ministry has already issued instructions to the Punjab Government for repatriation of the two occupants and the release of the aircraft. He said there have also been some other incidents of airspace violations by Pakistan. All these cases have been taken up with that government to check recurrence of such incidents. Recalling the incident, Mr Venkataram said the aircraft, which belonged to the Lahore Flying Club, took off from (Walton) airport and was on a 2-hour training flight. It lost its track and entered Indian airspace near Ferozepore at about 1250. When it ran out of fuel, the aircraft forced landed in a field at Mukerian at about 1430 hours. As soon as the aircraft entered our airspace, a Border Security Force observation force alerted the Army and Air Force. The Air Force authorities inspected the aircraft and did not find any sophisticated electronic equipment.

Rao Meets With Egyptian Special Envoy

BK211623 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Apr 84

[Text] Mr 'Abd al-Hamid ash-Shafi, special envoy of President Husni Mubarak of Egypt, met the external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, in New Delhi today. Mr al-Hamid came to the capital with a message for the prime minister, Mrs Gandhi, from President Mubarak on a reported Egyptian plan to end the Iran-Iraq war. He has already met Mrs Gandhi.

President Leaves for Mexico, Argentina

BK210912 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 Apr 84

[Excerpt] The president, Giani Zail Singh, has just left New Delhi on his official visit to Mexico and Argentina. He was seen off at the airport by the vice president, Mr Hidayatullah, the prime minister, Mrs Gandhi, and a number of her Cabinet colleagues.

Overflight Greeting to Chernenko

BK220901 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 22 Apr 84

[Text] While overflying Soviet territory on his way to Geneva, the president conveyed to President Chernenko and the Soviet people his sincere wishes for success in their peaceful policy. He expressed gratitude to the Soviet Union for its close cooperation with India.

SRI LANKA

North Korean Link With Tamil Separatists Alleged

BK220816 Hong Kong AFP in English 0758 GMT 22 Apr 84

[Excerpts] Colombo, April 22 (AFP) — A state-owned newspaper today reported a dramatic North Korean link in the Tamil separatist campaign, while diplomatic sources said that Pyongyang might be trying to destabilise the Sri Lankan Government because of its pro-Western stance. Tamil separatist radio broadcasts picked up here and in southern India are believed to be beamed from a North Korean ship anchored in the narrow straits between India and Sri Lanka, the government-owned *SUNDAY TIMES* reported today.

The weekend broadcasts — in English, Sinhala and Tamil — calling for a separate Tamil state in the north and east of Sri Lanka and advocating terrorism, are said to be beamed by a powerful transmitter which is shifted around to avoid jamming, the paper said. It said that the ship was anchored outside the new surveillance zone set up earlier this month by the National Security Ministry between Sri Lanka's coast and the maritime boundary with India and "safely out of reach of the navy and air force."

THE TIMES did not say whether the ship was operating from Sri Lankan or Indian territorial waters.

The former government of Prime Minister Sirima Bandaranaike closed down the North Korean Embassy here after it was believed to have been involved in the April 1971 insurgency which tried to overthrow her coalition. The insurgency, led by the ultra-left People's Liberation Front, officially claimed 1,200 lives.

The current government of Junius Jayewardene has proscribed the front for alleged involvement in anti-Tamil riots in July, which left nearly 400 people dead by official counts.

Some of the Tamil separatist groups have openly expressed Marxist leanings and diplomatic sources here told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE today that it was possible the communist North Koreans were trying to destablise the government because of its pro-Western stance.

It is widely believed here and has been reported in the respected Indian weekly *INDIA TODAY* that Tamil separatists are being given military training in camps situated in southern India, although New Delhi has denied it.

Diplomatic sources said that reports indicating that the South-Indian based Tamil separatists were armed with sophisticated weapons suggested a possible North Korean connection. Security forces have discovered that jewelry and gold stolen from banks here by Tamil separatists is being smuggled across to India. Recently Indian authorities arrested three Sri Lankan nationals in southern India with jewelry believed to have been stolen from a bank here. Diplomatic sources believe that gold is being smuggled out to pay for arms supplies for the Tamil separatists reportedly being trained in southern India.

Boat Load of 'Terrorists' Bound for India Captured

BK221318 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 22 Apr 84

[Text] Last night a naval patrol intercepted a boat load of terrorists and terrorist recruits on their way to south India. According to a statement issued by the secretary of the Ministry of State, the boat refused to stop when challenged by the patrol and was consequently fired (?upon). Six occupants of the boat were captured and one of them was found dead of the injuries received in the shooting.

Questioning of the captives disclosed that the boat had carried a load of three terrorists and 16 terrorist recruits bound for the Indian state of Tamil Nadu for military training. The other 13 occupants are presumed lost at sea.

Weapons Stolen From High Court in Jaffna

BK230815 Hong Kong AFP in English 0754 GMT 23 Apr 84

[Excerpt] Colombo, April 23 (AFP) — Suspected Tamil separatists stole nearly 30 weapons from the High Court in Jaffna, capital of the troubled north, in an apparent bid to eliminate evidence against separatist suspects on trial there, press reports said today.

Meanwhile members of a group of suspected separatists captured after a naval patrol yesterday intercepted their boat in the narrow Palk Strait told security forces they were going to southern India for military training, reports said.

Most of the haul of 15 guns and 13 pistols had been taken from people allegedly involved in separatist terrorist activities, according to police sources.

They believed the thieves were trying to remove evidence against separatist suspects being tried by the Jaffna court. Jaffna police are now questioning two watchmen tied up by the gang when it broke into the high court stores, reports said.

Leaders Speak at Tehran Friday Prayers

Moqtada'i Presermon Speech

LD201418 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Apr 84

[Excerpts] Spokesman and member of the Supreme Judicial Council Hojjat ol-Eslam Moqtada'i delivered the speech before the sermon at the Tehran Friday prayers and referred to the extensive and solid participation by our heroic nation in the elections to the second Majlis.

The speaker referred to the stationing of U.S. aircraft carriers near Iranian waters in the Persian Gulf and to the U.S. warning not to come closer than 5 miles, contrary to international law. He praised the morale and resistance of the courageous Islamic combatants and the brave people of the region for their readiness to reply to any aggression by the enemy.

Comparing the people's current situation with that described in Sura [Koranic chapter] Al-Ahzab, concerning the early fighters of Islam, he said: The world criminals are currently confronting Islam with amazing unity. They fear Islam and our slogan: neither East nor West. This is therefore a confrontation between Islam and blasphemy. Our combatants and our nation are fighting on the fronts with such love and faith and are standing firm and resisting with such steadfastness toward their pact with God that their enemy is desperate. Not only Saddam, but America is in despair and seeks to escape from the whirlpool. God willing, its downfall and destruction are at hand, which is in truth a divine promise.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Moqtada'i then went on to discuss the failure of certain women to wear the veil: Our martyr-nurturing nation, particularly the esteemed families of the martyrs, repeatedly have demanded a decisive campaign regarding this matter. On the basis of a prepared plan, identified and trained groups consisting of sisters and brothers from the Islamic Revolution Committees will drive around the streets in separate vehicles. If they come across instances of this type, they will first try to solve the problem in a dignified and friendly manner, in keeping with Islamic compassion. But if this does not succeed, violators will be taken to the criminal courts in accordance with Islamic and legal principles and will receive corporal punishment decreed by Islamic law.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Sermon

LD201248 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Apr 84

[Excerpts] In his second prayer sermon at Tehran University, after humbly expressing condolences with the congregation on the anniversary of the demise of the Holy Zaynab [daughter of Imam 'Ali] — may God's peace be upon her — and referring to Armed Forces Day, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The unexpected change that took place in the Armed Forces following the Islamic Revolution so far has been matchless in history. The Armed Forces — founded as the main axis for safeguarding U.S. interests and the Pahlavi dynasty in the region and the officers of which had received courses in the United States and those commanders trained in the United States behaved precisely contrary to the task that had been evisaged for it — suddenly, as a result of the deep move by the imam of the Islamic nation and that huge volcano that occurred, moved in a direction opposite to what they had intended for it. Today, the hope they placed on the Armed Forces has proven to be wrong and what they set up coupled with all those hopes in order to safeguard their own interests is threatening the United States, U.S. satellites, the regime occupying Jerusalem, and other people fighting God.

I advise my brothers in the Armed Forces to appreciate this historic opportunity and the prestige and greatness that they have acquired thanks to the Islamic Revolution. Of course, our men in the Armed Forces, with their acts of self-sacrifice on the war fronts during the past 4 years, have proven that they do appreciate this fact.

Continuing his sermon, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the problem of the Middle East by mentioning the mysterious moves made by the high-ranking U.S. delegation in Lebanon: Should Muslims become unwary and should they fail to take timely action to frustrate the plots by the agents of archsatan, there would be the danger of achieving the aims of the United States and those of the regime occupying Jerusalem.

Hojjat Ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Diplomatic moves to transfer the center of Zionist government from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem have begun once again today. Certain countries have begun preliminary moves to transfer their embassies to Jerusalem. Among others, the Spanish Government has opened its embassy in Jerusalem. [as heard] This is a result of the shameful Camp David accord and the lack of zeal in the Arab world. This grave insult to Islam and the free world, when at one time no one dared to carry it out, is currently taking place as a result of the lack of zeal in the Arab world.

On the other hand, reports that reach us from various parts of the world indicate a preparedness by the supporters of Saddam to take part in his funeral and there are indications that afterward they would prepare themselves to confront the Islamic Republic. Director of the CIA, William Casey, at a time when terrorists supported by his own government and the U.S. Government itself are mining Nicaragua's ports, accuses us of supporting terrorism while the Reagan administration condemns and considers the International Court of Justice in the Hague as lacking competence to investigate Nicaragua's complaint in that connection.

I would like to warn you that the Americans wish to embark on provocative moves and I hereby warn all the nations of the region that the responsibility for any tension and disruption of security in the region lies with the United States and that we, as the most important power safeguarding security in the region, will never allow anyone to do such a thing.

Continuing his second Friday prayers sermon in Tehran today, referring to the Majlis elections, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani said:

[Begin recording] We should evaluate these elections from several standpoints. Well, the principle of the elections was something natural and our Constitution and laws bind us — and it should be so — that the first term of the Majlis is ending and the second term should come and the elections should take place. There are certain issues that are noteworthy in these elections, and our nation should ponder these and pay attention to the things that lie behind this movement.

The second issue that is noteworthy is the misleading propaganda embarked on by our enemies, by counterrevolution, dissidents, and others. This imparts another aspect to the issue. Our people, vigilant and aware, became well acquainted with these propaganda (?tricks) of the Western world and our enemies. This is important in my opinion. As you may have noticed, for the past month or two, all foreign radios with all their capabilities and rumors and domestic and foreign agents have hit on the idea of making the people indifferent to the revolution and particularly to the Majlis and elections. This program was clear to all, and they would not heed it. The people have become aware that they move precisely in the opposite direction from that desired by counterrevolution. This is an extremely interesting point, and one of the mistakes made by counterrevolution is that in such circumstances it reveals its intentions. Perhaps it may now learn from this and behave in a different manner henceforth. The moment foreign radios, foreign media, the Americans, the French, the hypocrites, and other deviationist currents put forward the idea that the people should not participate in the elections the people would participate the more for that very reason. In other words, this has become a yardstick for distinguishing between good and evil, and this is extremely interesting! [loud cheers]

When they saw that such methods were to no avail, they resorted to rumormongering. What rumors they spread about me — well I am alive and everyone can see me come and go in the city of Tehran — about how I was assassinated; what the doctor who operated on me said; what this or that revolution guard had said. What things they said on the telephone, particularly by Radio Israel when it said one evening: Such and such magazine wrote this and gave this line of information. Well, from their standpoint, it was important, because if the Majlis speaker were to be assassinated during the elections, then that would be an indication of the fact that the threats made by the hypocrites were now being carried out. Nearly all of them said that, and all of them worked toward that end. Well, if only they could realize that in 10 or 12 days we would break our silence and come forth and they could then be disgraced. What would that be to them? I do not know how these people live. In other words, you should investigate this matter to its very depth. When certain propaganda machines wish to plan their programs on the basis of a rumor that they are certain will be revealed to be false in a few days, then that is an indication of their utter weakness. In other words, they have nothing else to cling too. [end recording]

Majlis Speaker Addresses Students on Counterrevolution

LD211502 Tehran IRNA in English 1405 GMT 21 Apr 84

[Text] Tehran, April 21, IRNA — The minister of energy, Hasan Ghafuri-Fard, student members of the Islamic Republic Party and also members of the Islamic Association of the Universities, met with the Majlis speaker, Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here today.

Speaking to the visitors the Majlis speaker referred to the role of the Muslim revolutionary students in encountering the counter-revolutionaries who had infiltrated into the ranks of the students. Since the victory of the Islamic revolution of Iran, he added, these elements have been trying to turn the universities into a center of counterrevolution, a place from which they could launch their attacks against the Islamic Republic and create a government within government.

Any power other than the Muslim and committed students would not have been able to accomplish this task, he stressed.

Further on the same subject he added that if plots of these elements were not countered decisively, they would have destroyed everything.

On the subject of closure of the universities during the cultural revolution, he said that more scientific work was accomplished during the period that the institutions of higher education were closed, when compared to the previous years. This was because the committed Muslim students through their hard work in various revolutionary institutions such as the reconstruction jihad, the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) and other places, greatly advanced the scientific standing of these institutions.

In another part of his speech he stressed that the main responsibility of the students should maintain their alertness so that the treacherous elements and counterrevolutionaries would not be able to make a come back.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Issues Communiques

Communique No 1,702

LD202214 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Apr 84

[Communique No 1,702 of Joint Staff Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] During the past 24 hours, the battle continued along the entire front of the imposed war in the form of artillery and mortar fire exchange. The combative forces of Islam in the northwestern operational sector pounded the enemy's equipment with their heavy artillery fire and opened fire on concentration points and fortifications of the Saddamist forces. On one front of this sector, one of our patrol groups penetrated the enemy positions and captured some equipment of the Saddamist mercenaries.

The mighty combatants of Islam in the western operational sector pounded enemy tank emplacements, infantry positions, and observation posts and disrupted his ground activities along the entire length of the line of contact.

In the southern operational sector, the enemy's artillery and armored units were under crushing fire from our artillery units. In addition, our units monitored the enemy's patrol operations

which had intended to penetrate our forces' defensive positions. By opening effective fire, our forces repulsed the enemy operations.

In the course of fire exchanges along the banks of the Arvand Rud, the forces of Islam pounded enemy positions, completely destroying 8 trenches and killing 10 Saddamists.

Yesterday, enemy long-range artillery fire damaged 13 houses and 4 shops in the city of Abadan.

Communique No 1,703

LD211728 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Apr 84

[Communique No 1,703 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] The victorious and mighty warriors of Islam, on the southern operational front, yesterday continued further consolidation of their positions. By opening intense artillery and mortar fire on defensive positions, artillery, and supply routes of the enemy, they inflicted losses and damages on infantry and armored equipment of the Saddamist forces and killed a number of their troops.

At 1730 on 19 April, one enemy reconnaissance plane crashed after being hit by the air defense fire of the combatants of Islam in one of the Majnun Islands.

In the course of fire exchange along the Abadan-Khorramshahr front, the return fire of the brave Navy warriors and zealous combatants of the Gendarmerie on enemy positions, silenced enemy fire and killed or wounded a number of Saddamist mercenary troops. Also in the same operational sector, the combatants of the Gendarmerie completely destroyed four enemy heavy weapons emplacements and reduced to the bare minimum the traffic movement of the Iraqi Ba'thist forces along the Al-Faw-Basra axis.

The powerful warriors of Islam on the Piranshah, Hajj 'Umran,and Marivan fronts and the border fronts of Bakhtaran continued the task of defending their own positions and regions under their protection. The warriors of Islam, by opening defensive fire and dispatching patrol and ambush groups, monitored enemy movements and troop deployment. While halting the movements and deployment operations of the Iraqi forces, our warriors set fire to parts of their defensive positions and slit trenches. Thanks to the vigilance of our warriors on every front, patrol operations of the Saddamist forces were foiled and neutralized. Fire exchanges were more intense in the Qasr-e Shirin region.

In the Hajj 'Umran sector, our combatants succeeded in completely destroying two engineering vehicles of the Iraqi forces, which were digging positions.

At 1830 on 19 April, the criminal enemy fired chemical shells on one of the operational sectors in Marivan.

The city of Abadan again came under the long-range artillery fire of the Iraqi forces during the past 24 hours, resulting in casualties and damage in several districts of the city.

Communique No 1,704

LD221723 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Apr 84

[Communique No 1,704 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] During the past 24 hours, the battle fought by the combatants of Islam all along the front line of the war with the Iraqi forces continued with exchanges of artillery and heavy weapons fire. The exchange of fire was more intense on the southern fronts and in the Qasr-e Shirin region than on other fronts. On each front, the victorious personnel of the Air Force and the antiaircraft units guarded the skies of the Islamic homeland and Ground Forces personnel protected the regions under their defense, thus preventing the Iraqi Ba'thist mercenary forces from making any moves or taking any action. Our forces dispatched patrol groups and strike units; executed heavy artillery and mortar fire on enemy positions, logistic routes, and locations; silenced the fire of the Saddamists; and halted their troop movements and engineering activities. On each front, while destroying enemy positions, foxholes, and slit trenches, our forces inflicted casualties on the Iraqi mercenaries. On Piranshah and Hajj 'Umran fronts, one Iraqi mortar launcher was destroyed and several Iraqi tanks were put out of action. More than 15 duped enemy soldiers were either killed or wounded. Also, on the Marivan and Panjwin fronts, one ammunition depot belonging to the Saddamists was completely destroyed and a number of their personnel were killed.

In the exchange of fire on the Arvand Rud front, the Gendarmerie warriors kept the Al-Faw-Basra supply route and other enemy positions and fortifications under their fire and destroyed about 13 heavy and light weapons emplacements and 2 mortar launcher emplacements of the Iraqi forces, disrupting the traffic of their supply vehicles along the Al-Faw-Basra route and killing or wounding a number of Iraqi Ba'thist mercenaries.

Yesterday, the city of Abadan came under sporadic fire by the Saddamist mercenaries as a result of which more than 10 houses and shops were damaged.

IRNA Comments on Iraqi Propaganda, Chemical Warfare

LD211933 Tehran IRNA in English 1742 GMT 21 Apr 84

[Text] Tehran, April 21, IRNA — Iraqi media have recently quoted Iraqi officials as saying the regime occupying Quds intends to bombard economic, scientific, and cultural centres in Iraq including a phosphate factory and chemical fertiliser factory near Baghdad. They have alleged that the Quds occupying regime will do so simultaneously with another scheduled thrust of the Iranian forces into Iraqi territory.

Apparently this whole scenario is a bid to divert world attention from recent setbacks by the Iraqi regime and invoke memories of an attack by the Zionist regime upon Iraq's nuclear plant in June 1981.

The following is a commentary on the subject.

Since the Zionist regime has denied allegations by Baghdad in this connection, we can therefore assume that by publishing the rumour of an intended attack upon determined targets in Iraq, the Iraqi Government is fabricating another propaganda ploy. Yet it is not impossible that such an act will be made in close cooperation between Washington, Tel Aviv, and Baghdad in order to give some credibility to propaganda campaigns against the Islamic Republic.

This will offer some propaganda material to the oppressive world media around which to play their tunes for a short while, and also provide for some haggling by international political brokers. But even such artifices are not likely to hide the open relations between the Baghdad regime and Washington from the world people and its subscription to the Camp David agreement.

The West and East are busy setting up a new stage for putting on a novel show. Their new efforts for diverting the attention of the world people from the main issue include the setting up of a disarmament conference in Geneva and a debate about production and application of chemical weapons. In the said conference, countries which have directly provided the Baghdad regime with chemical weapons and whose infamous records are filled with accounts of diverse war crimes against oppressed masses throughout the world, made an effort to feign sympathy and thereby cover up their complicity in the very crimes which they made a show of condemning.

U.S. Vice-President George Bush said in an interview upon his return to the United States after the Geneva conference that the application of chemical weapons by the Iraqi regime against Iranians had served to increase a world abhorence towards such poisonous weapons.

In point of fact, however, the United States has apparently showed a humanistic attitude in relation with Baghdad's war crimes perhaps in a bid to exploit the act as a trump card in itsdealing with the Soviets, much as the big powers of the Westand East initially denied Iran's report of such war crimes calling them mere "claims."

In its Persian language broadcast in early March this year, the Voice of America (VOA) said the United States could not confirm Iran's claims about Iraq's deployment of chemical weapons against the Iranians... but quoting a State Department official a week later, the radio confirmed this crime committed by Saddam Husayn... .

But in short, such maneuvers are efforts for perpetuating Saddam's ruling over Iraq and deviating the global attention from the crimes committed by the Iraqi despot. Iraq's deputy minister of foreign affairs said in his interview today with the VOA that Iraq would exploit any means in order to defend itself as an independent nation. He added in the same interview that the United States had even gone so far as to use nuclear weapons in the Second World War, and Iraq would not the least hesitate to use any means for defending itself.

22 April Cabinet Session Described

LD222032 Tehran IRNA in English 1825 GMT 22 Apr 84

[Text] Tehran, April 22, IRNA — In the cabinet meeting today, presided over by Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, Agriculture Minister 'Abbas 'Ali Zali reviewed a report on domestic agriculture and potential resources for agricultural growth. In this meeting it was also agreed that a proposal be drafted by the agriculture minister for enhancing agricultural production in the provinces of Khuzestan, Mazandaran and Bakhtiari va Chahar Mahall.

Meanwhile topics pertaining to the 1363 annual budget (beginning March 21, 1984) were discussed and provisions thereof were approved.

Commenting on the recently held second term Majlis elections Prime Minister Musavi said the election results in Tehran would be announced Monday and that second round elections would soon begin in the areas where polling must be repeated.

The second round of elections, Prime Minister Musavi said was as vital as the first round, and that the people would naturally care to cast their ballots for electing their representatives for the Majlis.